4 Classes of Singleness – A Condensed Model

Mature

II. The Gifted Single

- Meets criteria described by Christ & Paul.
- Doesn't "burn" (I Cor. 7:9).
- Doesn't date or flirt.
- Strategically using singleness for ministry.
- Needs affirmation of church in their singleness.

Could Also Include (but it gets messy):

- Those born as eunuchs.
- Divorcees unable to remarry biblically (should pray for the restoration of their marriage).

I. The Marriage-Bound Single

- Not unduly idolizing marriage.
- Not shirking risk or responsibility.
- Would like to be married, but keeps Christ first in their life.
- Perhaps due to lack of skill or information, or external circumstances (including general cultural trends), is not yet married (e.g., women who would like to be pursued).
- Is God's "will" for them to be married, but He may be keeping them from marriage temporarily or permanently to accomplish His secret will.
- Should be supported by the church/community/family towards marriage.
- Just "be content in your singleness" would be bad advice (but ought to trust God even while moving toward marriage).

Marriage Averse

Marriage Inclined

III. The "Spiritual" Single

- May think he/she is in quadrant II, but displays evidence to the contrary.
- Convinces self that it is more "spiritual" not to be married, but is really avoiding risk or responsibility. (Ex. "TBI guys prefer Greek to girls.")
- Can often be identified as someone who speaks as though he/she is in category II, but is still dating and/or struggling with lust.
- Needs guidance to see this is an excuse, and that's it OK to pursue marriage.

The Slacker Single/Delayed Adolescent

- Perhaps dating serially, long-term without commitment, or afraid to initiate or respond to anyone.
- Very risk and/or responsibility averse.
- Playing video games, unavailable for marriage: over-prioritizing career/education, in debt, not pursuing a career that can support a family
- Thinking will consider marriage "later" ("maybe when I'm 35").
- A problem in our culture today, leading to increase in average marriage age, larger number of adult singles in culture.
- Needs a swift kick in the pants!

IV. The Needy and Desperate Single

- Desperate to be married, marriage is an obsession, idolizing marriage.
- Unhappy
- Blaming God and others
- Might date/marry unwisely.
- Needs spiritual counsel/guidance/growth to move into quadrant I.

The Perfectionist Single

- Theoretically wants to marry, but thinks they must find "the one" and so does not consider anyone as marriage material unless they are "perfect." (May have been wounded through the divorce of parents or other loved ones.)

Immature